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EXAMINER

DAILEY, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/622,360

Applicant(s)

KALTHOFF ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Dailey

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6 and 12-87 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6 and 12-87 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/ are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 2-4 and 7-11 were cancelled by the amendment filed on December 6, 2007.
2. Claims 1, 5-6, and 12-87 are pending.
3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 6, 2007 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 5-6, 12-87 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 5, 12-17, 19, 37-39, 41-58, 60-70, 72-79, 83-87 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point

out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. The following claims have limitations with antecedent basis issues:

- i. Claims 5 and 44: "the application" (e.g. claim 5, line 3) lacks basis
- ii. Claim 12-13, 15-16, and 19: "a locked data set" (e.g. claim 12, line 1) and "an unlocked data set" (e.g. claim 12, line 2), should recite "the..."
- iii. Claims 37-39: "the copy of the master data set with permissions" (e.g. claim 37, lines 1-2) lacks basis
- iv. Claims 41-58, 60-70, 72-77, and 83-87: "a programmable processor" (e.g. claim 41, line 3), should recite "the..."
- v. Claims 44-58, 72-77, 83-87 have numerous additional antecedent basis issues, mainly due to their recitation of limitations from the parent claim. For example, claim 44, recites (All bolded words have antecedence issues) "the instructions operable to cause **a programmable processor** to define **a stored data** set maintained by **a first entity** to include **a locked data** set and **an unlocked data** set include instructions operable to **cause a programmable processor** to..." (lines 1-4) and only subsequent to that is there an actual limitation of the parent claim. The examiner suggests

cancelling out the extraneous wording in these dependent claims,
similar to what was done for claims 41-43.

- vi. Claim 79: "wherein providing a second entity with access to the
stored data set includes..." lacks basis, and further should recite,
"the second entity"

- 8. Claim 78 depends from the cancelled claim 2. For the purposes of examination
the examiner will interpret it as depending from claim 1. Claim 78 also has
antecedent basis issues, as "wherein providing an application in a computer
system with access to the stored data set includes..." lacks basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 10. Claims 1, 5, 15-18, 20-30, 33--34, 36-37, 39-50, 55-57, 59-69, 71-72, 74-75, and
77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter et al.
(US Pat. 5,418,945), hereafter "Carter," in view of Hurvig (US Pat. 5,628,005).

11. As to claim 1, Carter discloses a computer implemented method of sharing information, comprising:

defining a stored data set maintained by a first entity of computer system (column 3, lines 52-57) to include a locked data set, the stored data set being stored in memory, and the locked data set being protected from modification (column 5, lines 18-26, file group is locked when checked out by a client);

transmitting the locked data set to a second entity (column 5, lines 18-26);
and

reversing the locked data set at the second entity, such that the locked data set becomes an unlocked data set being available for modification (column 5, lines 18-26, client checks out file group for alteration, i.e. it can alter the file group that is locked by the server).

But, Carter does not explicitly disclose the stored data set including an unlocked data set being available for modification, transmitting the unlocked data set to a second entity, and reversing the unlocked data set at the second entity such that the unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification.

However, Hurvig discloses a stored data set including an unlocked data set being available for modification (Fig 4, label 208, server stores modifiable database), transmitting the unlocked data set to a second entity (column 9, lines

14-24, file stored in database is transmitted), and reversing the unlocked data set at the second entity such that the unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification (column 9, lines 14-24, if a process is given read-only access to a transmitted, this reads on a reversal of the unlocked data, as the file was modifiable at the server, but when stored at the remote process the file can only be read).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig in order to create a more robust and flexible file permission management system by utilizing the teachings of Hurvig to grant read-only permissions to subsets of the master file group of Carter.

12. As to claim 20, Carter discloses a computer-implemented method of sharing information, comprising:

- defining a master data set in a first entity of a computer system, the master data set being stored in memory (column 3, lines 52-57);

- assigning permissions, including permission to change a first subset of data within the master data set based on predetermined criteria, the permissions indicating operations that a second entity may perform on the first subset data and applications that the second entity may use for manipulating the first sub set

of data (column 4, lines 52-58, permissions are assigned using password lists, one such password list being "a write password list");

transmitting a copy of the master data set with indications of the permissions to the second entity, the transmitted copy of the master data set including unlocked data (column 5, lines 18-26, requesting given indications of permission via the security means as disclosed in column 4, lines 52-58), and the unlocked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to locked data in the master data set in the first entity (column 5, lines 18-26, file group is locked when checked out by a client for alteration); and

receiving a manipulated master data set in accordance with the assigned permissions from the second entity, the manipulated master data set including a second subset of data resulting from a first subset of data being manipulated by the second entity using one or more of the operations indicated in the permissions (column 5, lines 38-45, the client updates the master file group after it is finished working with it).

But, Carter does not explicitly disclose the transmitted copy of the master data set including locked data, the locked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to unlocked data in the master data set in the first entity.

However, Hurvig discloses a stored data set including an unlocked data set being available for modification (Fig 4, label 208, server stores modifiable

database), transmitting the unlocked data set to a second entity (column 9, lines 14-24, file stored in database is transmitted), and reversing the unlocked data set at the second entity such that the unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification (column 9, lines 14-24, if a process is given read-only access to a transmitted, this reads on a reversal of the unlocked data, as the file was modifiable at the server, but when stored at the remote process the file can only be read).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig in order to create a more robust and flexible file permission management system by utilizing the teachings of Hurvig to grant read-only permissions to subsets of the master file group of Carter.

13. As to claim 33, Carter discloses a computer-implemented method of sharing information comprising:

receiving, from a first entity of a computer system, a copy of a master data set, the master data set including locked data and being stored in memory (column 5, lines 18-26, file group is locked when checked out for alteration), the received copy of the master data set including unlocked data, the unlocked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to the locked data in

the master data set (column 5, lines 18-26, the client which has checked out the file group can alter the locked data);

modifying the copy of the master data set (column 4, lines 29-33 and column 5, lines 38-45); and

transmitting the modified copy of the master data set to the first entity (column 5, lines 38-45).

But, Carter does not explicitly disclose the transmitted copy of the master data set including locked data, the locked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to unlocked data in the master data set in the first entity.

However, Hurvig discloses a stored data set including an unlocked data set being available for modification (Fig 4, label 208, server stores modifiable database), transmitting the unlocked data set to a second entity (column 9, lines 14-24, file stored in database is transmitted), and reversing the unlocked data set at the second entity such that the unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification (column 9, lines 14-24, if a process is given read-only access to a transmitted, this reads on a reversal of the unlocked data, as the file was modifiable at the server, but when stored at the remote process the file can only be read).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig in order to create a more robust and flexible file permission management system by utilizing the teachings of Hurvig to grant read-only permissions to subsets of the master file group of Carter.

14. As to claim 40, it is rejected by the same rationale set forth in claim 1's rejection.

15. As to claim 59, it is rejected by the same rationale set forth in claim 59's rejection.

16. As to claim 71, it is rejected by the same rationale set forth in claim 33's rejection.

17. As to claims 5 and 44, Carter and Hurvig disclose defining the locked data set to include information to call the application (Carter, column 3, lines 52-57, databases store application related data) and the unlocked data set to include data to be used by the application (Hurvig, column 9, lines 14-24, files are used by an application).

18. As to claims 15 and 54, Carter discloses assigning data in the stored data set to the locked data set and the unlocked data set based on a function of the second

entity (column 4, lines 52-58, permission is based on function, either access or write functionality).

19. As to claims 16 and 55, Carter discloses defining data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for other entities (column 5, lines 21-26).

20. As to claims 17 and 56, Carter discloses defining data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for all other entities during a period of time when the second entity has access to the unlocked data set (column 5, lines 21-26).

21. As to claims 18 and 57, Carter discloses:

receiving modified data from the second entity (column 5, lines 38-45); and
integrating the modified data into the stored data set (column 5, lines 38-45).

22. As to claims 21 and 60, Carter discloses receiving a modified copy of the master data set from the second entity and integrating the modified copy of the master data set with the master data set (column 5, lines 38-45).

23. As to claims 22 and 61, Carter discloses receiving the modified copy of the master data set includes receiving additional data (column 4, lines 29-33, the

editor on the client can “create new files,” which will then be sent back as discloses in column 5, lines 38-45).

24. As to claims 23 and 62, Carter discloses receiving the modified copy of the master data set includes receiving changed data (column 4, lines 29-33 and column 5, lines 38-45).

25. As to claims 24 and 63, Carter discloses receiving changed data includes receiving data that has been changed in response to design considerations (column 4, lines 29-33 and column 5, lines 38-45).

26. As to claims 25 and 64, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning authority to read data (column 4, lines 52-58, access password list reads on “authority to read data”).

27. As to claims 26 and 65, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning authority to change data that is a subset of the transmitted copy of the master data (column 52-58).

28. As to claims 27 and 66, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning authority to add data (column 4, lines 29-33 and column 4, lines 52-58).

29. As to claims 28 and 67, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning authority to delete data (column 4, lines 29-33 and column 4, lines 52-58).
30. As to claims 29 and 68, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning authority to access predetermined types of data within the subset (column 4, lines 52-58).
31. As to claims 30 and 69, Carter discloses assigning permissions includes assigning permissions based on at least one of an identity of an entity, a function of the entity (column 4, lines 52-58, permission is based on function, either access or write functionality) and a user's position within the entity.
32. As to claims 34, 41, and 72, Carter discloses receiving the copy of the master data set in a second entity includes receiving the copy of the master data set in a computer application (column 4, lines 6-11, the client computer system (the second entity) runs a client (an application) that has access to the data).
33. As to claims 36 and 74, Carter discloses performing design processes on the unlocked portion of the data (column 4, lines 29-33).

34. As to claims 37 and 75, Carter discloses receiving permissions to do at least one of read, change, delete and add data to the unlocked data (column 4, lines 52-58).

35. As to claims 39 and 77, Carter discloses receiving the copy of the master data set with permissions based on at least one of an identity of the second entity (column 4, lines 52-58), a function of the second entity and a hierarchy of users within the second entity.

36. As to claim 42, Carter discloses providing an application maintained at a location external to the first entity with access to the stored data set (column 4, lines 6-11, the client system is remote from the servers storing the master databases).

37. As to claim 43, Carter discloses providing a computer aided design system with access to the stored data set (column 4, lines 6-11 and column 4, lines 25-33).

38. As to claim 46, Carter discloses sending the stored data set to the second entity (column 4, lines 25-33).

39. As to claim 47, Hurvig discloses providing the first entity with access to the stored data set, the first entity having permission to view the unlocked data set and to change only the locked data set (column 9, lines 14-24).

40. As to claim 48, Carter discloses providing a computer aided design system with access to the stored data set (column 4, lines 6-11 and column 4, lines 25-33).

41. As to claim 49, Carter discloses providing a second entity with access includes providing an entity that is external to the first entity with access to the stored data set (column 4, lines 4-11).

42. As to claim 50, Carter and Hurvig disclose assigning data in the stored data set to the locked data set and an unlocked data set based on predetermined criteria (Carter, column 4, lines 52-58 and Hurvig, column 9, lines 10-18)).

43. Claims 12-14, 19, 31-32, 38, 51-53, 58, 70, and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter and Hurvig in view of Fabbio (US Pat. 5,335,346).

44. As to claims 12 and 51, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose defining the stored data set to include a restricted data set including data that is not part of the locked data set or the unlocked data set.

However, Fabbio discloses defining the stored data set that includes locked and unlocked data sets to further include a restricted data set including data that is not part of the locked data set or the unlocked data set (column 3, lines 27-31,

readable objects read on “unlocked data,” writeable objects read on “locked data,” executable objects read on “restricted data.”)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Fabbio in order to allow the file permission management system greater flexibility in how it classifies data.

45. As to claims 13-14 and 52-53, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose assigning data to the locked data set based on closeness criteria includes assigning data to the locked data set based on at least one of geometric closeness, organizational closeness.

However, Fabbio discloses assigning data to the locked data set based on closeness criteria includes assigning data to the locked data set based on at least one of geometric closeness, organizational closeness (column 3, line 64–column 4, line 1, it is inherent that the grouping of “group ids” will be according to organizational closeness in any network, and collective closeness)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Fabbio in order to allow the file permission management system greater flexibility in how it classifies data.

46. As to claims 19 and 58, Carter and Hurvig do not explicitly disclose defining the stored data set to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set based on user input.

However, Fabbio discloses defining the stored data set to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set based on user input (Fig. 9A, labels 901 and 903).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Fabbio in order to allow a user to have direct control of data classification.

47. As to claims 31 and 70, Carter and Hurvig do not explicitly assigning permissions according to a hierarchy within the second entity so that a highest ranking member of an entity has a greater number of permissions, and a number and extent of permissions decrease as rank decreases.

However, Fabbio discloses assigning permissions according to a hierarchy within the second entity so that a highest ranking member of an entity has a greater number of permissions, and a number and extent of permissions decrease as rank decreases (column 9, lines 22-32, Fabbio system includes administration rights and that, inherently has a hierarchical structure).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Fabbio

in order to allow the file permission management system greater flexibility in how it classifies data.

48. As to claims 32, 38 and 76, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose different permissions assigned for different subsets of the unlocked data

However, Fabbio discloses different permissions assigned for different subsets of the unlocked data (column 3, lines 27-31 and column 8, lines 9-19).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Fabbio in order to allow the file permission management system greater flexibility in how it classifies data.

49. Claims 6, 35, 45, 73, 78-87, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of Hurvig, as applied to claims 1, 20, 33, 40, 59, and 71, in further view of Sweeney et al (US Pat. 5,966,715), hereafter "Sweeney."

50. As to claims 6, 35, 45, and 73, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose defining version data for the application as the locked data set and defining raw data for the second entity to look at or use as the unlocked data. Rather, neither teachings get into specifics in regards to what the data sets comprise.

However, Sweeney discloses defining version data for the application as the locked data set and defining raw data for the second entity to look at or use as the unlocked data (column 8, line 66-column 9, line 15, the Version Control Manager has access (read only) to the version information (locked data or version data) and the rest of the application (unlocked data or raw data) can be executed or modified).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with the teaching of Sweeney in order to give have the data represent something specific such as in version information which was disclosed in Sweeney.

51. As to claim 78 and 83, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose providing an application in a computer system with access to the stored data set includes providing a testing application with access to the stored data set.

However, Sweeney discloses providing an application in a computer system with access to the stored data set includes providing a testing application with access to the stored data set (column 12, lines 16-29, Sweeney's system includes means to test the databases and programs).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Sweeney in order to

give Carter's system a specific function, such as the ability to test the applications.

52. As to claims 79 and 84, they are rejected by the same rationale set forth in claim 78's rejection.

53. As to claims 80 and 85, Carter and Hurvig does not disclose receiving additional data includes receiving test results. Rather, Carter's additional data is generic and it does not specifically disclose the additional data's contents.

However, Sweeney discloses receiving additional data includes receiving test results (column 12, lines 16-29, the application is tested and new data is added to it and distributed to users). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Sweeney in order to give Carter's system a specific function, such as the ability to test the applications.

54. As to claims 81 and 86, Carter and Hurvig does not disclose receiving changed data includes receiving data that has been changed in response to testing.

However, Sweeney discloses receiving changed data includes receiving data that has been changed in response to testing (column 12, lines 16-29, the

application is tested and new data is added to it and distributed to users).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with Sweeney in order to give Carter's system a specific function, such as the ability to test the applications.

55. As to claims 82 and 87, Carter and Hurvig do not disclose modifying the copy of the master data set includes performing testing on the unlocked portion of the data.

However, Sweeney discloses modifying the copy of the master data set includes performing testing on the unlocked portion of the data (column 12, lines 16-29, the application is tested and new data is added to it and distributed to users).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Carter and Hurvig with the teaching of Sweeney in order to give Carter's system a specific function, such as the ability to test the applications.

Conclusion

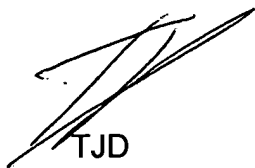
56. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Dailey whose telephone number is

571-270-1246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday;

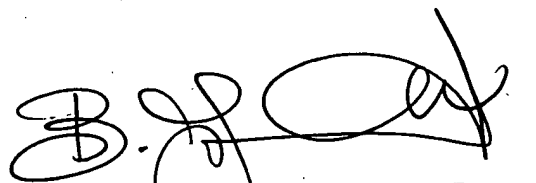
9:00am - 5:00pm.

57. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

58. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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1/7/8